(b) whether any decision to initiate necessary action against such institutions has been taken by Government or Medical Council of India;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to check the unrecognized colleges from being run in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) At present 205 medical colleges are functioning in the country. All these medical colleges are recognized/ permitted by the Central Government for running MBBS course. Neither Medical Council of India nor Central Government maintains information on unrecognized medical colleges. The Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 was amended in 1993 to check the mushroom growth of medical college in the country wherein seeking prior approval of Central Government is mandatory to open new medical college.

Procurement of Artificial Limbs

1137. SHRI BIRABHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure under CSMA rules for CGHS beneficiaries for procuring artificial limbs;

(b) the reasons for cancer patients after facing amputation in Government approved hospitals require to furnish Essentiality Certificate from Doctors of Government hospitals for procuring artificial limbs;

(c) the list of approved hospitals for such certificates;

(d) the cases during years 2001 to 31st January, 2003 where applicants were not compelled to produce such certificates; and

(e) the reasons for such disparity in cases of handicapped applicants?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Permission to the CGHS beneficiaries for purchasing artificial appliances including artificial limbs is granted as per Govt. approved ceiling rates on the basis of the advice by the Govt. Specialist.

In case the Govt. Rehabilitation specialist/Orthopaedic Surgeon (not below the level of consultant) advises an item not included in the list of Govt. approved appliances, the permission in such cases is granted as under:

(i) For items costing below Rs. 2,000/-, the same can be purchased without any quotation.

(ii) For items costing above Rs. 2,000/-, prior permission from the Addl. Director of the concerned CGHS city is to be obtained.

(iii) Requests for new and expensive items are considered by the Govt. on a case-to-case basis.

(b) CGHS beneficiaries suffering from Cancer and advised artificial limb by the Govt. specialist are duly granted permission by the CGHS as per procedure indicated in (a) above.

(c) The specialist (in the relevant field) of Govt. hospitals throughout the country can advise artificial limb/appliance to the CGHS beneficiary.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected.

Printing of colour photographs of diseases on cigarette packets

1138. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for printing of colour photograhs of lung cancer victims, diseased organs and other tobacco related diseases on the cigarette packets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Cigarettes and other Tobacco products (prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001, contains provisions to make rules for printing of prominent messages on tobacco products conveying the ill effects of tobacco.